

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. – 20. (canceled)

21. (canceled)

22. (currently amended) A storage operation management method for managing operations of a plurality of storage devices storing information that is provided to a business server having a plurality of applications accessed via a network, the method executed by an operation management server coupled to the network, comprising:

acquiring, from the plurality of storage devices, characteristic values defined for each volume of the plurality of storage devices, and storing the acquired characteristic values in memory with a correspondence to said each volume defined thereby;

obtaining a performance level and a reliability level of each of the volumes according to a type of an application, and storing the obtained performance and reliability levels, wherein said performance and reliability levels are obtained by using attribute information defined for each of the volumes and evaluation function coefficients previously stored in association with the type of application;

obtaining upper and lower limit threshold values of each of a plurality of classification levels from the obtained performance and reliability levels of each of the volumes, based on a policy for selecting volumes, and making a correspondence

between each of the volumes and each of the classification levels based on the classification level to which the performance and reliability values of each volume correspond; and

determining a candidate volume to be selected and made accessible to said business server, based on a classification level designated by a user and on the correspondence between each of the volumes and each of the classification levels~~The method according to claim 21,~~

wherein said classification levels are obtained according to evaluation values of attribute information of each of the volumes by using an evaluation function for each application, and the upper and lower limit threshold values ~~for the level values~~ of each of the classification levels are obtained by dividing the total amount of the volumes based on a ratio according to each of the classification levels provided by the policy.

23. (canceled)

24. (currently amended) A storage operation management system which includes a plurality of storage devices coupled to a network and an operation management server for managing operations of the storage devices, and which provides information from the storage devices to a business server having a plurality of applications accessed via the network, the operation management server comprising:

an acquiring means for acquiring, from the plurality of storage devices, characteristic values defined for each volume of the plurality of storage devices, and storing in memory the acquired characteristic values with a correspondence to said each volume defined thereby;

a first obtaining means for obtaining a performance level and a reliability level of each of the volumes according to a type of an application, and storing the obtained performance and reliability levels, wherein said performance and reliability levels are obtained by using attribute information defined for each of the volumes and evaluation function coefficients previously stored in association with the type of application;

a second obtaining means for obtaining upper and lower limit threshold values of each of a plurality of classification levels from the obtained performance and reliability levels of each of the volumes, based on a policy for selecting volumes, and making a correspondence between each of the volumes and each of the classification levels based on the classification level to which the performance and reliability values of each volume correspond; and

a determining means for determining a candidate volume to be selected and made accessible to said business server, based on a classification level designated by a user, and on the correspondence between each of the volumes and each of the classification levels~~The system according to claim 23,~~

wherein the first obtaining means comprises a third obtaining means for obtaining evaluation values for attribute information of each of the volumes by using an evaluation function for each application, and the second obtaining means comprises a fourth obtaining means for obtaining the upper and lower limit threshold values for the level values of each of the classification levels by dividing the total amount of the volumes based on a ratio according to each of the classification levels provided by the policy.